(c) the percentage of Ganges waters being polluted by each and every source respectively; and

(d) the amount estimated to be incurred on treatment of this polluted water and making it pure before its amalgamation into the Ganga water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The sources of pollution of river Ganga can be classified broadly into two categories namely, point and non-point sources. The point sources are organized source of pollution of domestic and industrial origin. The non-point sources are non measurable sources of pollution such as run-off from agricultural fields, solid waste dumps and areas used for open defecation, dumping of unburnt/half burnt dead bodies and animal carcasses, dhobi ghats, cattle wallowing etc. It has been reported that the point sources are main source of pollution of the river Ganga. The municipal and industrial wastewater are reported to contribute 75% and 25% of the total pollution load respectively caused due to these sources.

(d) An expenditure of Rs. 682.89 crore has already been incurred by the Government for undertaking various pollution abatement works in river Ganga since 1985 till December, 2005. An amount of Rs. 421.99 crore is additionally required to take up all other approved pollution abatement works of the river. Further, an amount of Rs. 1334 crore approximately has been estimated as the requirement to tackle the balance pollution load of the river for improving the river water quality to the standard set for bathing class.

Protection of endangered species of animals and birds

1999. SHRI E.M SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives are being taken by Government to protect the endangered species of animals and birds in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Initiatives

taken by the Government to protect the endangered species of animals and birds in the country are as under:—

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, thereby giving them the highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehended and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Financial and technical assistance are provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Central Zoo Authority and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the states for providing effective protection of wild animals.

(vi) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(vii) Action has been taken for implementing the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force.

(viii) The conservation breeding programme of rare and endangered wildlife species is being undertaken by the Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with various zoos in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Norms for care of animals in zoological parks

†2000. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of zoological parks in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.